

Frequently Asked Questions

Seeking Collaborators to Assist NASA in Inspiring a New Generation of Scientists, Engineers, Explorers, Educators and Innovators

Announcement Number: NNH11ZHA0050

Updated September 21, 2011

Most recent questions listed last

Questions as of April 28, 2011

- Q1. Please clarify how an external organization would benefit from partnering with NASA as a result of this announcement.
- A1. It is up to respondent organizations to determine the value of potential partnership with NASA. One direct outcome of a partnership with NASA on its education efforts is alignment with NASA on addressing national education priorities to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.
- Q2. Please clarify if funds to partner organizations are available through this announcement.
- A2. Please see page 1 of the announcement under **Statement of Purpose**: “The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) seeks unfunded collaboration with organizations to enhance its ability to achieve its strategic goals, outcomes and objectives as they relate to education.” Please also review **General Information** on page 4 and the definition of **Nonreimbursable Space Act Agreement** on page 5. Respondents will be responsible for financing their own activities. No NASA funding is available for this purpose
- Q3. Are international organizations eligible to respond to this announcement?
- A3. Please see page 3 of the Announcement under **Eligibility**: “All categories of domestic entities, including U.S. Federal government agencies, are eligible to respond to this Announcement.” International organizations are not eligible to respond.
- Q4. May we discuss potential partnership ideas with NASA before the response due date?
- A4. One objective of this Announcement is to encourage innovation and creativity for NASA education. For this reason, NASA Office of Education cannot provide additional direction, other than what is already provided in the Announcement on how to frame and develop the proposed response.
- Q5. Are you looking for individual contributors as partners/collaborators?
- A5. Please see page 3 of the Announcement under **Eligibility**: “All categories of domestic entities, including U.S. Federal government agencies, are eligible to

respond to this Announcement.” Individuals are eligible to respond to this Announcement.

- Q6. Can you give me examples of the types of materials/resources that we might consider requesting as we design the application?
- A6. Respondents may request access to NASA assets and resources, such as people, content, and facilities. NASA will consider each request on a case-by-case basis during the evaluation process. Please note the fourth evaluation criteria on page 3 of the Announcement: “The level of NASA resources requested for the collaboration is commensurate with the level of value and benefits offered to NASA.”

Questions as of June 14, 2011

- Q7. What is the timeline for starting partnership projects? Is it necessary for activities to begin as soon as possible or can they start in the future, for example, as far as 2014?
- A7. The Announcement states that NASA is seeking collaborations that will help NASA achieve one or more of the NASA strategic goals for education described in the 2011 NASA Strategic Plan, and that the last review cycle will begin on January 3, 2012. While NASA has no specific requirements for when activities should begin, it is expected that activities will commence within a reasonable time after the Parties have executed a Space Act Agreement detailing the terms and conditions for their collaboration and within the scope of NASA’s current funding horizon. Responders are reminded that this Announcement does not represent the only avenue for entering into Space Act Agreements with NASA, and that NASA issues new Announcements on a regular basis.

Questions as of July 5, 2011

- Q8. What is the term for a partnership agreement with NASA?
- A8. Space Act Agreement terms generally range from one to five years, depending on the scope of the agreement.
- Q9. I understand that we will be responsible for funding. What is the estimated amount of funding and personnel involvement required?
- A9. Each Partner will be responsible for providing all funding and personnel that the Partner needs to fulfill their obligations under a Nonreimbursable Space Act Agreement negotiated with NASA. These resources may vary depending on the type of project a Respondent proposes. NASA does not otherwise require a specific amount of funding or personnel from Partners. NASA evaluates proposals against the criteria stated in the Announcement. Please note, in particular, the following criteria on page 3 of the Announcement:
- The responding organization demonstrates sufficient experience to accomplish proposed activities during stated timeline.
 - The responding organization demonstrates sufficient financial resources to

carry out project.

Please also note the definition of Nonreimbursable Space Act Agreement on page 5 of the Announcement:

Nonreimbursable SAAs “involve NASA and one or more Agreement Partners in a mutually beneficial activity that furthers the Agency’s mission, wherein each party bears the cost of its participation, and there is no exchange of funds between the parties.” NASA Policy Directive 1050.1I, “Authority to Enter into Space Act Agreements,” paragraph 1.b.

Q10. Since we are based in <<city>>, where would these services need to take place? For example, could we provide our resources/services from this area, or would it be necessary to travel to a different location?

A10. NASA does not place requirements on locations of proposed partnership activities. Please note the following evaluation criterion stated on page 3 of the Announcement: “The collaboration will enhance NASA’s ability to reach new or broader audiences across a national scale.”

Questions as of September 21, 2011

Q11. Please clarify the financial arrangements under which a “Nonreimbursable Space Act Agreement” operates. If there is no exchange of funds between the parties, what are the financial obligations (cash or kind) of a university seeking to participate as an Agreement Partner?

A11. Please see FAQs 2 and 9.

Q12. How does the “Nonreimbursement” policy statement relate to the Space Act (51 U.S.C. Para. 20101-164) authorizing NASA “to enter into and perform such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements or other transactions as may be necessary in the conduct of its work and on such terms as it may deem appropriate.” Does this mean that in certain situations contracts, leases, etc., can be entered into in which Agreement Partners receive funds to carry out activities deemed to be mutually beneficial to both parties?

A12. This announcement is for an unfunded partnership in the form of a Nonreimbursable Space Act Agreement. Nonreimbursable Space Act Agreements are carried out under NASA’s authority to ‘enter into and perform such... other transactions as may be necessary in the conduct of its work...’. They are distinct from other types of legal agreements, and do not call for Agreement Partners to receive funds to carry out any activities, regardless of whether activities are deemed to be mutually beneficial to both parties. Contracts and leases are governed by other complex and sophisticated legal regimes which do not have direct bearing on this Announcement. See FAQs 2 and 9 for more information.